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SUBJECT: SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION: SWISS UPDATE

REF: SECSTATE 182566

1.(U) Per reftel request, Embassy contacted Swiss Development Agency (DEZA) South Asia expert Roland Schlacter for an update on Swiss aid to the earthquake-damaged areas of Pakistan. Schlacter expressed some differences with the reftel information, estimating that there was confusion about short-term vs. long-term assistance, emergency vs. reconstruction assistance, and Swiss francs vs. US dollar sums.

2.(U) Following is the Swiss provided information (please note that the Swiss Franc to US Dollar exchange rate is about 1.25 - 1):

DEZA Relief Operation (10/05-1/06):

- Bilateral	SFR.	6.3 million	(US\$	5.0 million)
- Multilateral	SFR.	4.7 million	(US\$	3.8 million)
- Total	SFR.	11.0 million	(US\$	8.8 million)

Reconstruction Program (2006-2009)

	2006	2007	2008	Total in millions
- Bilateral	SFR. 5.7	5.4	4.9	16.0 (US\$ 12.8)
- Multilateral	SFR. 2.5	2.0	1.5	6.0 (US\$ 4.8)
- Total	SFR. 8.2	7.4	6.4	22.0 (US\$ 17.6)

Additional "Livelihood" Program = SFR. 5 million (US\$ 4 million)

Total Swiss DEZA Relief = SFR. 38 million (US\$ 30.4 million)

Swiss private charity contributed an additional SFR. 12 million (US\$ 9.6 million), indicating why the total Swiss commitment is sometimes publicized as SFR 50 million (US\$ 40 million).

3.(U) With regard to funds committed, DEZA's Schlacter expected all of the 2005 and 2006 funds to be disbursed by year's end, equaling SFR. 19.2 million (US\$ 15.4 million). This would leave about US\$ 15 million for the coming two-year period. This latter figure perhaps accounts for the US\$ 14 million (accounting also for exchange rate fluctuations) recorded as "uncommitted" in reftel.

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